

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /083 W

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5074

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE, CI

SUBJ: GDR AVOIDS DETAILS OF MONTES PRISONER EXCHANGE

1. THE GDR ANNOUNCED ON JUNE 19 THE ARRIVAL OF FORMER CHILEAN SENATOR JORGE MONTES IN THE GDR, AND HAS THUS FAR ONLY REPORTED THAT MONTES WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON BY THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT IN AN "EXCHANGE", AND THAT MONTES HAS THANKED THE GDR FOR ITS SOLIDARITY. DETAILS OF THE JUNE 18 TRADE-OFF OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, IN WHICH ELEVEN WEST GERMAN PRISONERS WERE TURNED OVER BY THE GDR TO FRG REPRESENTATIVES AT THE HERLESHAUSEN BORDER CROSSING POINT IN RETURN FOR MONTES HAVE NOT BEEN MENTIONED IN VDR MEDIA.

2. MONTES, WHO HAD ARRIVED IN FRANKFURT AM MAIN IN A CHILEAN PLANE EARLIER IN THE DAY, CAME UNDER CUSTODY OF GDR AUTHORITIES ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 18. IN A JUNE 19 STATEMENT TO GDR TELEVISION, MONTES REFERRED TO HIS
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RELEASE AS A GREAT VICTORY OVER DICTATORSHIP, BUT DID NOT MENTION THE PRISONER EXCHANGE. MONTES CALLED FOR SOLIDARITY WITH THE WIVES AND CHILDREN OF CHILEAN PRISONERS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN THE HUNGER STRIKE AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA.

3. COMMSNT: AS IN THE CASE MF THE CORVALAN-BUKOWSKI

EXCHANGE, THE GDR IS PRESENTING THE MONTES RELEASE AS A VICTORY OF SOLIDARITY WITH CHILE. YET, IN CONTRAST TO THE CORVALAN EXCHANGE, THE GDR IS AT LEAST ADMITTING THAT AN EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE, THOUGH IT HAS AVOIDED GOING INTO DETAIL. GDR CONTACTS EXPRESSED MISGIVINGS AT HAVING TO FOLLOW THE STRICT MOSCOW LINE ON THE CORVALAN EXCHANGE SINCE THE WELL-INFORMED GDR PUBLIC WAS WELL AWARE THROUGH FRG MEDIA THAT AN EXCHANGE HAD TAKEN PLACE. THE GDR NOW APPARENTLY SEEKS TO AVOID A SIMILAR LOSS OF CREDIBILITY BY AT LEAST ADMITTING THAT MONTES WAS NOT SIMPLY FOUGHT FREE THROUGH SOLIDARITY, BUT CAME TO THE GDR THROUGH AN EXCHANGE. POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONERS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BERLIN06332
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TAGS: PFOR, GC, CI, (MONTES, JORGE)
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